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Fishes

Aquarium Notes and News

MARCH, 1914



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**AQUARIUM SOCIETY OF
PHILADELPHIA**

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The Aquarium Society of Philadelphia meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except July and August.

Initiation fee, \$1.00; dues, \$1.80 per year.

Corresponding membership, \$1.00, no initiation.

"Notes and News" is sent to all members.

We have no subscription list and no paid advertisements, but members may use these columns, subject to editorial approval, to tell what they want to buy or sell.

Officers 1913-14

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P. O. Box 66, Phila. Chairman and Editor

MARCH MEETING

Will be held Wednesday evening, March 25, at Fraternity Hall, 1414 Arch street, at 8.30 P. M.

The charts for judging Goldfish will be adopted. Address by Dr. Herman Burgin: "Some Reasons Why Careful Attention Should be Given to the Selection of Breeders and the Mating of Same."

EXHIBITION AND COMPETITION

Telescopes Under One Year

We doubt if there are many of our members who cannot enter at least one fish in this class, and we trust that you will help us make this an exceptional evening.

AQUARIUM NOTES & NEWS

Awards at February Meeting—Classes: Comets, Nymphs, Single-tail Telescopes and Fantails, all ages.

SINGLE-TAIL TELESCOPES

Blue Ribbon—Scaleless.....Wm. Peck
Blue Ribbon—Scaled.....Geo. W. Price

COMETS

Blue Ribbon.....Wm. L. Paulin
Red Ribbon.....Franklin Barrett

NYPHS

Blue Ribbon.....Franklin Barrett
Red Ribbon.....Franklin Barrett
White Ribbon.....Harry Peters

Judges—Fred. Schaefer, James Flemming, John P. Arnold.

Our last meeting was especially interesting, inasmuch as we have practically adopted a constitution that is acceptable to us all. The following standard was adopted for judging Gold Fish:

	Body	Tails	Dorsal	Double Anals	Eyes	Color	Style	Total
Fringetail Tele- scopes	18	18	14	5	22	18	5	100
Fringetails and Fantails	25	30	20	5	..	15	5	100
Nymphs	35	35	10	.	..	15	5	100
Comets	25	40	15	.	..	15	5	100
Single-Tail Telescopes ..	20	20	15	.	20	20	5	100

Article VI, Section I of the By-Laws was changed to read:

Exhibitions

Section 1. Competitive exhibitions of fishes owned by members shall be held at each date of meeting, except in the month of September, the awards to be official ribbons of the Society and such

other prizes as the Society may, from time to time, designate. A blue ribbon shall constitute first prize; a red ribbon, second prize, and a white ribbon, third prize, provided a fish be eligible for first prize score eighty-five points or over; second, seventy-five or over; third, sixty-five or over. A red-white-and-blue ribbon may be awarded as a consolation prize when an exhibit is considered to be of sufficient merit to win a first, second or third prize, but barred from award by absence of competition.

This section while being adopted is subject to change, providing the Society finds that we have adopted a standard which proves too high.

The present cup, which has been awarded for Aquaria, is to be kept in competition until it has been won by the same person three times, when it shall become the property of the winner. There shall also be awarded each year a cup for Aquaria, the cup to become the permanent property of the winner.

Meetings for May and June have been added, and likewise the following competitions:

May—Lion Heads, Celestials, Orandas, and any other class of Goldfish for which no provision has been made.

June—Fish other than Goldfish.

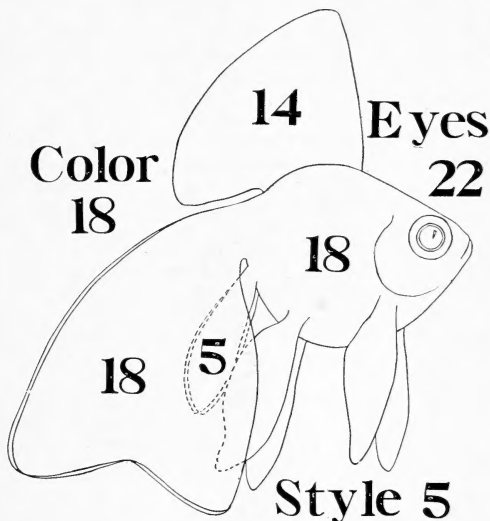
The selection of charts for competition was referred to the Board of Governors, which body will present the charts to the Society at the next meeting for final adoption.

The points brought out at our goldfish breeding discussion will be set forth in a practical way in our next issue, so that our corresponding members and others may derive as much benefit as possible.

Mr. Wm. G. St. Clair, Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, would like to purchase a second-hand aquarium of about 20-gallon capacity. Must be nicely finished, as it is intended for use in a living room.

A VEILTAIL TELESCOPE STANDARD AT LAST

For years the greatest difficulty we have had to contend with has been regarding the method of judging fish. The lack of definite standards has been mainly responsible for this, and from time to time it has been suggested that we adopt charts and a scale of point valuations, so that even a comparative



novice might be able to judge correctly. Members of the Society were invited to draw or secure outline figures of ideal fish of the several types. Mr. Barrett was the only one to make figures of all classes, and his drawings were very attractive. The figure shown herewith was prepared by Mr. Innes, and is largely an idealized form of a drawing from life by Mr. Herman T. Wolf. The work of

Dr. E. Bade, now of New York, who designed the German veiltail standard, has also been taken into consideration. At our forthcoming exhibition of "telescopes under one year," each judge will work from this diagram and will tabulate his results on blank forms prepared by the Board of Governors.

The ribbontail type has each tail forked or cleft more than one-third of its total length, but in all cases of double tailed fish, the two tails should be completely divided their entire length. Those with the tails joined are known as web-tails, and are not eligible for competition in any of the fringetail classes.

Veiltail, broadtail and squaretail mean exactly the same thing.

The 5 for anal fins means that if they are double, the fish is credited with the 5 points.

This point system has been officially adopted by the Society, and we hope at the next meeting to select ideal diagrams for each class of fish.

In the matter of color, we recognize four divisions: Black, scaled fish, other than blacks; calicos and transparently scaled fish, other than calicos.

Mr. Harry Peters has presented to the club two cups, which shall be given for competition, as follows: One to be competed for by novices or members who have not won ribbons; the other to be an open competition, the provisions and rules for the competitions to be left to the Board of Governors.

Fontenalis antipyratica is one of the best of ornamental aquarium plants. It is not a plant which would be suitable to completely plant an aquarium, but should be used in small bunches in corners or fastened to rockwork, where it will root and make a very attractive appearance. A number of our members have been in search of this plant for several years. Mr. Barrett has recently received a limited supply, which he will be pleased to share with our members at a slight charge.

CHARLES ELFREY

The news of the death on February 26th, of our esteemed fellow-member, Mr. Charles Elfrey, came as a great shock to his many friends.

We particularly regret that his death occurred as a direct result of caring for his fish. He had several thousand newly hatched fish, and fearing a cold night, was carrying extra coal to his greenhouse. He slipped on a bit of ice and fell heavily on a low step, receiving internal injuries, from which he died in less than twenty-four hours.

AQUARIUM SOCIETY DINNERS

The Brooklyn Aquarium Society is to have a dinner at "The Imperial," Fulton Street and Red Hook Lane, on Saturday, March 21, at 6.30 P. M. Members of the Philadelphia Society are invited to attend, the price per plate being \$1.50. A large and representative attendance is expected, and the Brooklyn friends promise us an enjoyable occasion. Any who would like to stay overnight can be accommodated by different members of the Brooklyn Society. Those wishing to go had best call up Mr. Innes as early as possible.

The New York Society has for years had these enjoyable affairs annually, and for several seasons past representatives of the other societies have been invited guests. Pretty nearly time that Philadelphia got busy with a little more sociability and good fellowship. An annual dinner here ought to be a big hit, and it would help us all get better acquainted.

The next dinner given by the New York Society will be on Saturday evening, April 25, at Hotel Endicott, Columbus Avenue and 81st Street. Our members will be made welcome at this meeting, and we are sure those who avail themselves of the opportunity will feel well repaid for the trip.

Now that the goldfish breeding season is at hand, we are going to devote our next meeting almost entirely to the consideration of this

subject. We have been very fortunate in securing Dr. Herman Burgin to address us. Dr. Burgin was for years president of our Society and has himself bred many of the finest fish ever shown. Beginners and others will find much of practical value at this meeting.

Several years ago one of our members, Mr. Albert T. Coles, invented the spawning net, a most useful device under certain circumstances. It was written up in "The Aquarium" about a year ago, but a reference to it at this time might be timely. It consists simply of an oblong cheesecloth bag suspended on a frame so as to hang in the aquarium. The bag should, if possible, extend into the water at least, say, ten inches wide, sixteen inches long and twelve inches deep. In the morning when the fish are driving place the bag into the aquarium, put in myriophyllum, water hyacinth or whatever other plants you may use to catch spawn on, and then lift in the female and such males as may be selected for the mating. This method avoids the use of extra tanks for spawning purposes, assures cleanliness, avoids change of water and avoids undesirable matings, which are liable to occur in a large aquarium.

PLATE GLASS AT LOW COST

As plate glass is the largest item of expense in constructing an aquarium, the amateur often uses double-thick American ordinary glass to economize. Plate glass really need not be very expensive. There are a number of plate glass insurance concerns who are frequently taking out large remnants of broken windows. These they cut into sizes and sell at considerably below the market price, so that a plate glass aquarium, which is very much the best in every way, need not cost materially more than the ordinary kind.

Several of these insurance companies are in the vicinity of Fourth and Walnut streets.

If buying from the large dealers, try to get plate glass of second grade.



